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MARY ELLEN FRANK DONATION



Recently, nationally recognized artist and portrait doll carver, Mary Ellen Frank made a very kind donation to APIA. Widely regarded as a master doll maker, Mary Ellen's work is highlighted in the book *500 Handmade Dolls: Modern Explorations of the Human Form*. The donated portrait dolls are inspired by early 1900s photographs taken in the Aleutians by Russian doctor Dima Brodskaya. Carved from paper birch, the portraits depict Mikhail Snegirev and sisters Aksinia and Anisia Prokopieva. For the past 20 years, the dolls have been on display at Aunt Claudia's Doll Museum in Juneau. Accompanying the Prokopieva dolls are finely woven grass baskets made by Lois Thadei.



Included with the donation is a 4:1 scale model iqyaġ handcrafted by *Maakalix* Douglas Shaishnikoff Vaubel August 20, 2005. This

model is based on pre-contact line drawings, reflecting the ingenuity and skill of traditional Unangaġ craftsmanship.

Thanks to Mary Ellen's generosity, these works have come to a place where they can be preserved, shared, and continue to inspire traditional artistry.

APIA's Collections, including art, literature, photos, language material, and other documents are managed by our Cultural Heritage Department with preservation, collection care, and technical assistance provided by Darian LaTocha, Curator of Collections and Nikkita Shellikoff, Collections Assistant. For access to our collections or inquiries, please contact Darian at darianl@apiai.org or Nikkita at nikkitas@apiai.org.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dimitri Philemonof, President/CEO

With the holidays and year-end behind us, we start looking forward to the new year and spring ahead. We are even starting to see the little increments of daylight starting to be noticeable.

Our Winter Board meeting took place December 8 – 12th. See below highlights from my report to the Board. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for April 20 – 24th.

Funding Update On November 12th, President Trump signed a bill to re-open the government. Some programs were only funded through January 30th. After our Board meeting, another government shutdown began on January 31st. On February 3rd, President Trump signed a bill that provided Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding for several programs. It also extended Homeland Security funding through February 13th. We will continue to monitor the funding. It is a good thing that Self-Governance Funds are part of the advanced appropriations, therefore there are less concerns for us during times of shutdown.

Plan for LIHEAP Funds We continued to watch for updates on LIHEAP and other program funds that were not part of the advanced appropriations and the Continuing Resolution which were only funded until January 30th. They are now funded for the balance of the year.

We provided feedback on the late LIHEAP funding to our national program group at the urging of Senator Murkowski – she is a great ally, and she has wonderful staff that are very helpful. We had initially opened our LIHEAP funds for crisis only before fully processing all applications in January.



Plan for General Assistance Although President Trump signed a Continuing Resolution, it only funded many social service benefits through January 30th. They are also now funded for the balance of the year. We continued to advocate for these benefits to be funded. Senator Murkowski supported our efforts for these program funds to be allocated beyond the end of January. We continue to encourage those in need to apply for General Assistance. Our BIA General Assistance funds are for basic essential needs of food, clothing, shelter and transportation.

One-Time Fisheries Hardship Donation

After our Board Fisheries Committee meeting, I worked with Chairman Mark Snigaroff, our CFO, Mark Hamm, and our COO, Trina Deuber, to see what we can do to help with the Fisheries Hardship taking place throughout the region. After checking with Mark Hamm on our funding availability, we sent \$5,000 checks out to each of the Tribes. That was a one-time Fisheries Hardship donation. We hope this helps our people during this difficult time with the fisheries.

Unangam Tunuu Program The Atka Fluency Building Immersion Intensive was held last year, January 14 to March 28, 2025. It was led by Nikka Dirks, Darling Anderson, Crystal Dushkin and Sally Swetzof. Staff worked closely with the school and community to increase learning of Unangam tunuu (the Aleut language). The current Intensive started on January 12 and will go through March 31, 2026.

The Anchorage Summer Language Intensive was held May 27 to July 11, 2025. We had 17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

learners (six from the region and one from the lower 48) and seven Elder speakers. It was split into two dialect teams with the goal to increase fluency and teaching skills.

King Cove Road On May 27th, we sent a letter to President Trump about the King Cove Road asking him to please approve the project. Then on August 19th, we sent written testimony stating our decades long support of the land exchange for the road to the Department of the Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service. We have continued to advocate for this project's approval. On October 21st, Chantae Kochuten, King Cove Corporation CEO and Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI), signed the official land exchange agreement. On October 23rd, the DOI Secretary made an announcement with Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Representative Begich and Governor Dunleavy about President Trump approving the long awaited land swap. This signed agreement gets the King Cove Road one step closer to taking place. The road has had its' on and off again moments, we are hopeful with the agreement being signed, things will keep moving forward. We continue to stand by to assist the Tribes and community of King Cove in any way possible. Many thanks to all the members of the community and leaders that continue to advocate for this life saving road project. We also thank President Trump, Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Representative Begich and Governor Dunleavy for their support.

5 Year Plan Update We are in the final year of the current 5-year plan. The full and quick glance report for fiscal year 2025 were in the Winter Board packets. We shared with the Board some highlights of the work we had

done in 2025. I want to thank my managers and staff for the work they have done on this plan so far. Thank you to the Board for their guidance through the 5-year plan that will carry us through 2026. The priorities assigned to us by the Board were: Preserving our Culture – Making Elder & Youth Connections; Maintaining Healthy and Safe Communities; Unified Communication: “Working as One”; Education & Health Sustainability and Transportation. We will have a planning session at our Spring 2026 Board Meeting for our new 5-year plan.

Tribal Christmas Donations In September, we sent \$5,000 donation check to each Tribe for: \$2,500 for the Elders and \$2,500 for the Youth. In October, we sent \$5,000 for this year's Tribal Christmas Donation. We hope this helped Tribes prepare for the holidays, although the funds may be spent as they choose. We wished everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope your families stayed healthy and safe.



CFO - Farewell and Welcoming As stated earlier, Mark Hamm, our CFO for the past 14 years, gave his resignation late August with his last full-time day with us being January 10th. I can't say enough good things about Mark and what he has done for the Association – we love the guy and will miss him and his wonderful family greatly. We shared with the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

Board in October that our new CFO is Louise Chikigak. She started on December 15th and trained under Mark for a few weeks. She was able to meet the Board in person at our December meeting. We appreciate the Board welcoming Louise to our team!

APIA Board Longevity I continue to be honored to be in this position. I appreciate their ongoing commitment to serve on our Board and our people.



I would like to mention our Board Members and their combined years of service:

Zenia Borenin (36years)
 Mark Snigaroff (35 years)
 Leona Nelson (26 years)
 Delores Kochuten (24 years)
 Arnold Dushkin (22 years)
 Etta Kuzakin (13 years)
 Hillary Smith (11 years)
 William Shellikoff, Jr. (11 years)
 Amy Foster (8 years)
 Mark Merculief, Jr. (5 years)
 Nick Tutiakoff (2 years)
 John Wayne Melovidov (2 years)
 Carla Chebetnoy (1 year)



SAVE THE DATE: APIA CULTURE CAMP 2026

Join us for APIA's 17th Culture Camp at Unangam Ulaa **June 8-12** to celebrate our Unanga̋ culture! Applications will be posted on our Facebook page and website at www.apiai.org by **April 1**. Visit us online or stop by APIA to ask the front desk for a hard copy application.

Also, be sure to mark you calendars for an Unanga̋ style Potluck on **June 12!** Last year, roughly 400 community members joined in on the festivities bringing an abundance of traditional foods! Contact our Camp Staff: Darling, Nikkita, Erin or Lydia at culturecamp@apiai.org, (907) 276-2700 or call toll free at (800) 478-2742 if you have any questions. See you this summer at Camp!



CULTURAL HEALING PROGRAM

On December 29th & 30th Cultural Heritage staff facilitated a gathering under our Tribal Victim Services Award. We had such a good time that we forgot to take pictures!

Activities included:

- * Beaded ornaments with Nikkita Shellikoff
- * Agadas with Mason Kvasnikoff
- * Painting with Lydia Dirks
- * Beaded earrings with Erin Levesque

Over 30 participants came together to learn and share in this healing space as the year and our grant came to an end. We are looking forward to the evolution of the Cultural Healing Program in years to come and we

want to thank all of the departments at APIA and our cultural instructors for the ways they have supported the success of our new program.

We are currently between funding cycles so a portion of our program is on a brief hold. We anticipate to be back to planning and facilitating cultural gatherings in Anchorage and in our tribal communities by May.

Please contact Erin Levesque, Cultural Healing Program Coordinator, at erinl@apiai.org if you would like to know more about the program or if you have any questions.

Haqayaâ tada (Take care).



HEAD START PROGRAM



Every child deserves a strong beginning, built on safety, connection, and a sense of belonging.

Head Start staff worked closely with families to support children during their earliest years, recognizing that learning hap-

pens best when families and communities are involved. In King Cove, Sand Point, and Unalaska, families, elders, and children came together through orientations, open houses, elder lunches, father involvement events, classroom activities, and seasonal celebrations that helped children feel welcomed and supported.

Daily learning centered on Unangax language, culture, and hands-on experiences,

while teachers stayed connected with families through regular communication and conferences. By working alongside families and communities, Head Start helped children build confidence, strengthen cultural identity, and prepare for the transition into kindergarten.

For more information about our Head Start program, please contact Caroline Wolkoff at carolinew@apiai.org or 907-276-2700.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PROGRAM

The Food Sovereignty Program traveled to King Cove and Sand Point in the fall of 2025 to teach various workshops related to gardening, food preservation, and agriculture in the region. Marisa McKasson, our UAF Tribal Extension Agent, also recently taught two hands-on workshops at APIA: Pressure Canning Meat/Fish, and Jams & Jellies. If you are interested in a workshop in your community, please email mnmcasson@alaska.edu for more information.



We are wrapping up a program that coordinated shipments of local Alaskan-grown foods through a USDA grant. This includes

foods like chicken from Polaris Poultry in Palmer, milk from Alaska Range Dairy in Delta Junction, and produce grown throughout the state. Although this funding is coming to an end, we intend to look for additional funding sources to continue the program.

Our Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country (TPWIC) grant, in collaboration with the Native Village of Atka, continues to coordinate cultural events in the community with an emphasis on traditional foods and subsistence practices.

We also continue to test our hydroponic unit in the Food Sovereignty office. The produce from this unit is used for APIA's Elder gatherings. This unit has successfully grown herbs, lettuce, and even peppers!

Additionally, we're continuing our **Quarterly APIA Food Sovereignty Newsletter**. This newsletter features updates and resources on food systems, nutrition, agriculture, and food sovereignty successes within the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region. It also highlights opportunities for training, conferences, and grants. If you would like to subscribe to the Newsletter, please email Kiana Holland at kianah@apiai.org.



READING FOOD LABELS

Traditional foods like fish, marine mammals, birds, and berries have kept the people of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands healthy for generations. These foods connect us to our culture and land.

When store-bought foods are needed, reading food labels helps families choose foods with less sugar and salt. This supports healthy hearts, teeth, and overall well-being.

- Start with serving size – the numbers on the label are based on this; packages often contain more than one serving.
- Check sugar and salt – choose lower amounts when you can.

- Watch fats – limit saturated and trans fats.

Read ingredients – listed from most to least; fewer ingredients are often better.

You don't need to read every detail. A quick look is enough to make smarter choices.

Let's keep our families and communities strong. Reading food labels is one more way to care for yourself, your elders, your youth, and your community.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Adapt Alaska Coasts: Aleutians Workshop

In October 2025, 31 participants met in Anchorage for the Adapt Alaska Coasts: Aleutians Workshop, hosted by APIA and Aleutian & Bering Sea Initiative (ABSI), to tackle coastal challenges. Focusing on food security, logistics & infrastructure, and solid waste management, participants developed three project ideas: solid waste management in Atka and Adak, dock rebuilds in Atka, and ungulate herd management in the Aleutians. Several proposals are already in progress. Communities interested in adaptation planning, emergency plans, erosion, or infrastructure projects can contact Karen Pletnikoff at (907) 276-2700, ext. 286 or karenp@apiai.org.

Harmful Algal Blooms and Marine

Mammals Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) can cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) and other illnesses. Recent studies show PSP can affect marine mammals, sometimes making them sick or causing death. While PSP in marine mammals has been observed, there are no reported cases of humans getting sick from eating marine mammal meat. Some organs may have higher toxin levels, but meat and blubber generally remain safe. Shellfish, however, can pose serious PSP risks.

For testing or food safety guidance, contact:

- Karen Pletnikoff: (907) 276-2700, ext. 286 karenp@apiai.org
- AHAB Coordinator Thomas Farrugia: (907) 531-2481, farrugia@aoos.org

Learn more at the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (AHAB): <https://ahab.aooos.org>

Shellfish Poisoning: Shellfish poisoning *can start within minutes to hours* of consuming toxic shellfish.

CALL 911 OR YOUR LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

Progression	Symptoms
1	Headache
1	Tingling/Numbness
1	Dizziness
1	Nausea/vomiting
1	Vertigo
2	Incoherent speech
2	Involuntary eye movement
2	Rapid pulse
2	Loss of coordination
2	Shortness of breath
2	Backache
3	Motor speech disorder
3	Difficulty swallowing
3	Weakness in arms/legs
3	Suspension of breathing
3	Muscular paralysis
3	Respiratory arrest
4	Death

Death can occur in a matter of hours. Treatment is supportive care, which may require mechanical ventilation. There is no antitoxin.



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS TEAM

Healthy Relationships Team (HRT) staff attended the Legal Advocacy and Wellness Sharing in January offered by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). Completed all available classes on VAT online as well as attended Restorative Justice Training. Women's gatherings were also offered in October and December, the no-sew blankets that were made by participants of the December Women's gathering

were donated to elders. HRT staff visited Kenaitze program's Supervised Visits and Safe Exchange center in August of 2025 as part of HRT's effort to determine if this is something that can work effectively for our program. This staff continued advocacy efforts to victims under the Office on Violence Against Women. If you have questions about HRT, please call HRT Administrator Kristie Traver at 907-276-2700, ext. 242.



SOUTHWEST ALASKA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

The Southwest Alaska Area Health Education Center (SW AHEC) project coordinator led an impactful dual-credit (high school and college) healthcare course in Naknek this October. In partnership with Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education (BBRCTE), the program reached 10 students from across the Bristol Bay region.

Per the SW AHEC subaward, the project coordinator serves the Bristol Bay Region and Alaska Peninsula in addition to the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. This partnership ensures that youth across our vast region have access to vital health career training.

Course Highlights and Success

The program was a resounding success, with all 10 participating students passing the course. By the end of the term, students earned two college credits and several life-saving certifications, including: Stop the Bleed, CPR, First Aid.

Beyond the classroom, students engaged in hands-on clinical experiences that brought medical theory to life. Top highlights included touring the C'amai clinic, dissecting

sheep hearts, and learning the technical skill of taking manual blood pressure.

Student Reflection: The impact of the course was best summarized by the students themselves. One participant reflected:



Students dissect a sheep heart

"I really enjoyed this course—it helped me understand my chosen career more deeply and made me appreciate how much dedication it takes to become a surgeon. The instructions were clear, organized, and easy to follow, which made the process fun and engaging".

We are proud of these students for their dedication to their future careers in health and their commitment to

the well-being of our communities! We look forward to bringing our next dual credit course to Sand Point!

If you have any questions, please reach out to SW AHEC Coordinator, Ian McCarthy at 907-276-2700 or ianm@apiai.org.



ELDER CARE SERVICES

APIA Elder Care Services hosts Facebook Live chair exercise sessions every Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. Each session begins with a brief discussion on how physical activity supports brain health, followed by three guided chair exercises. Exercises rotate monthly to keep sessions engaging and accessible. Since August, each session has reached 500–900 views, with participation continuing to grow. Viewers are encouraged to request a Thera-Band to exercise along with us, and we consistently receive 1–2 requests per month. Participation has even expanded beyond Alaska, reaching elders in the Lower 48.

Sessions are demonstrated by 1–3 APIA volunteers, with Lorraine providing narration and guidance throughout.

APIA Elder Gatherings are held on three Fridays each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Currently, we've welcomed an average of 10–17 elders per gathering. During these gatherings, elders enjoy coffee, tea, or juice while listening to a short Alzheimer's awareness presentation. We also invite guest presenters—both from the APIA Anchorage office and the broader Anchorage community—to share information relevant to elders' interests. Recent topics have included secondhand smoke awareness presented by Caroline from the Department of Health and fraud prevention presented by the FBI.

Additional activities include trivia, videos highlighting communities in our region, games, coloring materials, and resource tables. Most importantly, elders enjoy time connecting and visiting with one another. These gatherings continue to be well-loved and well-attended.

Elder Potlucks are held monthly on Fridays and are catered for the events. Attendance typically ranges from 40–60 elders, varying each month.

These gatherings offer a warm space for elders to spend time with friends and family.

Potlucks are open to Unangax elders from Anchorage and surrounding communities, as well as elders visiting from other communities within our region. The sense of connection and community makes these events especially meaningful.

The APIA Meals on Wheels Elder Pet Food Program is now in its second year and continues to be a success. So far this year, we have received 69 applications, with 60 elders already receiving pet food. The program runs through April 1, serving elders across our region. No applications will be accepted after April 1. We continue to hear how much this program is appreciated by participating elders.

This winter, APIA hosted a Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) in Anchorage. A total of 16 participants completed the experience. We plan to host another VDT later this year, so keep an eye out for upcoming dates and join us for this impactful learning opportunity!

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Coat Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Food Drive

RSVP hosted its annual Coat Drive, in partnership with One Warm Coat. A donation bin was located in the atrium of APIA from December 18, 2025, through January 23, 2026. Donated items included men's, women's, and children's winter coats. RSVP also received a wonderful batch of knitted hats made by RSVP volunteers Ursula Parks and Joan Brewer. All collected items were donated to the Brother Francis Shelter, as well as to a few Elders in need of winter coats. Since the last food drive in September was tremendously successful, RSVP hosted another food drive for the MLK Jr. Day of Service, in partnership with Catholic Social Services. Two donation bins were located in the atrium of APIA from January 20, 2026, through February 20, 2026. All non-perishable food items were do-

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ELDER CARE SERVICES CONT.

nated to the St. Francis House Food Pantry.

RSVP also collaborated with APIA's Head Start team through RSVP's Project Warm-Up. RSVP volunteer Ursula Parks knitted and donated hats to APIA's Head Start department for distribution to children enrolled in the program. Sand Point's Head Start program highlighted the donation in its December 2025 Parent Letter. "We would like to send a big thank you to Ursula Parks for the knitted hats. The kids love them, and said "We can't wait to wear them while we play outside this winter!" The Head Start team expressed their appreciation for the partnership and looks forward to collaborating more in the future.

Project Warm-Up is a creative and important project for senior volunteers who like to knit or crochet hats, mittens, scarves or blankets. This is a great opportunity for RSVP members to volunteer their time and their skills to support a project that helps individuals experiencing homelessness and youth in need. Volunteers can knit at a volunteer site or in their own home and all of the completed items are donated to local homeless shelters, cancer centers, soup kitchens, ASD Title I elementary schools and as needed within supported communities. If you are interested in RSVP opportunities, please reach out to Brianne Hunt, RSVP Coordinator at 907-276-2700.



What you do today can improve tomorrow

Wan angaliḡ anaḡis manabxin qilagan txin kiduunaḡ (W)

Wayaaam manabxin qilagan kum txin ilaaḡumsukuḡ. (E)

New Year, Healthier You New Year's resolutions don't have to be extreme to be effective. Instead of drastic changes, focus on small, achievable habits:

- Schedule your annual checkup
- Aim for regular movement, even short daily walks
- Prioritize sleep and hydration
- Take medications as prescribed
- These simple steps can significantly improve your long-term health and we're happy to help you create a plan that works for you.

Please reach out to your local clinic for support.

Medication-Assisted Treatment APIA offers Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction and alcohol misuse, helping reduce cravings, block the effects of substances, and support long-term recovery. Our team works closely with Behavioral Health to provide compassionate, whole-person care every step of the way.

You're not alone, help is available! If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, support is available at APIA.

Recovery is possible, and taking the first step can make all the difference.

Call **844-359-0001** to get started.

APIA Reaccredited by The Joint Commission!

The Joint Commission is a nationally recognized symbol of excellence in health care. This certification evaluates the quality and safety of our programs and services, highlighting our ongoing commitment to providing the best care for our communities.

OUTREACH EVENTS

This past year, our Diabetes team brought education and support directly to the communities of Nikolski, St. George, Atka, and Unalaska. These events focused on diabetes education and prevention through interactive learning sessions designed to meet community needs. In St. George, fasting lab clinics were also offered, with same-day transport to the ANMC lab to ensure timely and accurate results. Our goal is to provide community members with knowledge and tools to support healthy living and diabetes management.

Preparing Together: Strengthening Community Emergency Readiness

Emergency preparedness is strongest when communities lead the way. Across the Aleutians, APIA has been working side-by-side with community members to strengthen local emergency response and planning.

In Unalaska, APIA partnered with ANTHC subject matter experts to deliver Emergency Preparedness and Small Community Emergency Response Plan training that brought together clinic staff and local responders. Participants identified gaps in current plans, shared local knowledge, and developed practical, community-specific steps to improve emergency response.

We also hosted ETT trainings in Atka, Nikolski, St. George, and Unalaska. Each community participated in hands-on mock emergency drills, followed by open discussions about what worked well and what could be improved. Thanks to this shared effort, the Primary Care Services Clinic Emergency Response Plans have been updated to better reflect the needs and experiences of each community—helping everyone feel more prepared when emergencies happen.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

In December, 2025, Dusty Irwin, Psy.D. took over management of the Child Mental Health Initiative from Rachel Arnold, Ph.D., who ensured a seamless transition of responsibilities. Behavioral Health's role in the Child Mental Health Initiative is in supporting clinicians and partner programs like Head Start with training, collaboration, and education as well as tracking our work with youth clients in order to continue to strengthen access to quality mental health services for children and adolescents.

Clinician Trainings Clinicians with Behavioral Health have been diligent about engaging in monthly ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) trainings, which are instructions on topics relevant to supporting child mental health that also provide opportunities for peer support and consultation. Other

opportunities for trainings, conferences, and educational opportunities relevant to children's mental health continue to be promoted and tracked to support with the initiative, as well.

Community Partnerships Behavioral Health continues to collaborate with Head Start to support with their needs for staff and parent trainings, classroom observations, and other needs as they arise. Moving into 2026, we aim to foster other community partnerships to strengthen referral pathways for children and families.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OUTREACH TO ST. GEORGE

Clinicians from Behavioral Health had a successful community visit that focused on maintaining a warm and inviting presence in St. George. Melanie Prokopiof and Dr. Dusty Irwin organized and held community events, including a holiday art activity with the youth of the community and a meet-and-greet potluck with APIA staff.

Holiday Art Activity with Youth During the visit, Melanie hosted a Christmas-themed art activity with children in the community at the St. George Hotel Library.



While creating art and listening to Christmas music, Melanie talked with the children about what a healthy lifestyle means to them and why it's important. The activity was full of creativity and fun, with a great turnout and lots of positive energy.

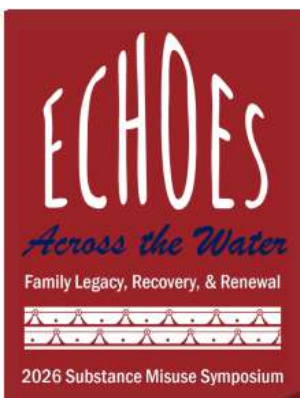
Behavioral Health Meet & Greet Potluck A Behavioral Health potluck was held in the main lobby of the St. George Clinic, bringing together community members, families, and staff. Hamburgers, hotdogs, a large salad, fresh

fruit, and a homemade cake were shared with community members. The turnout was great, and the event was filled with good conversations and opportunities for people in St. George to get to know staff from APIA.



Community members had the chance to meet Dusty, Melanie, and the itinerant primary care nurse practitioner Micki Smith-Stocker who arrived to St. George at the same time as Behavioral Health. After the potluck, youth from the community took Micki and Dusty on a short tour around the village and shared interesting details about the island.

Overall, the trip was meaningful, hopeful, and fun, strengthening relationships and reinforcing APIA's commitment to supporting the health and well-being of the residents of St. George.



4th Annual Substance Misuse Symposium Please watch for updates on the upcoming *4th Annual Substance Misuse Symposium* to be held in beautiful Unalaska/Dutch Harbor this May 2026!

Plans are underway for youth programming, a workshop on how to help a loved one struggling with substance misuse, and general evening reception featuring APIA Healthcare Providers and guests.

Our theme this year is, "Echoes across the Water: Family Legacy, Recovery & Renewal." This theme was crafted from participant evaluations from 2025 that showed a desire to focus on family during the 2026 symposium and additional training for youth.



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Our Family Programs team continue to expand support for tribal children, families, and communities across the region. Our focus remains on strengthening culturally rooted advocacy, enhancing collaboration with Tribes and tribal organizations, and ensuring families have the resources to navigate the child welfare system.

Our program offers a wide range of services, including prevention services for at-risk families, family support to access needed services, advocacy in child welfare court proceedings, to help keep children connected to their families, culture, and communities. We are committed to walking alongside families with respect, transparency, and a deep understanding of tribal sovereignty and the rights of Alaska Native families. As we move

into 2026, keep an eye out for our upcoming outreach activities. We'll host community engagement events, ICWA educational sessions, and opportunities for families and partners to learn more about available services through our Family Advocacy Center (FAC). We look forward to strengthening relationships, sharing resources, and continuing to uplift the voices and needs of the communities we serve.

If you have any questions about Family Programs, please reach out to Amanda McAdoo, Family Programs Administrator at 907-276-2700 or amandam@apiai.org.



TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM



Raeli Gundersen, TCSP Caseworker

Our Tribal Child Support Program (TCSP) continues to support families across the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Region by helping ensure children receive consistent financial support to meet their everyday needs. Our focus remains on cooperation, clear communication, and providing services in ways that reduce stress for families while supporting stability and well-being. The program provides direct sup-

port by working with parents and caregivers to collect and distribute child support payments. Over the past year, more than \$215,000 in child support was distributed, with most funds going directly to custodial parents within the region. Staff also meet with families during community visits to answer questions, explain options, and assist families as circumstances change.

Looking ahead, Tribal Child Support will continue to engage with communities, support families through transitions, and work alongside partners to ensure services remain accessible, respectful, and responsive to community needs.

If you have any questions about Tribal Child Support, please reach out to Malinda Beiler, TCSP Administrator at 907-276-2700 or malindab@apiai.org.



EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, & RELATED SERVICES

The Employment, Training & Related Services (ETR) Division's goal is to enhance the self-sufficiency of the communities, families, and individuals we serve. We weave traditional knowledge with Western Education by providing community members with access essential resources and assisting them in preparing for training and employment opportunities based on their unique needs and situations. We connects tribal members with job training, education, career support, and support services to meet their needs while pursuing education or employment opportunities.

The ETR Division provides services that include Energy Assistance, Employment Support Services, Vocational Training and Higher Education, General Assistance, Child Care, and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation.

We had a busy and successful start to the FY26 Energy Assistance Season. During the government shutdown and funding delays, we distributed nearly \$180,000 in Energy Assistance Awards for 173 households in the first three months since opening in November. We are still open for applications; the FY26 Energy Assistance Season is anticipated to close in April 2026.

We traveled to four of our regional communities this winter. During these visits ETR staff provided the communities with information on our services, visited Elders, met one-on-one with community members, and assisted with Energy Assistance applications.



Approved General Assistance payments are leveling out after the spike in Quarter 4 of FY24 (July-September 2024) due to the fisheries disasters and closures/reduction of scope of fish processing plants in the region. Our request for additional General Assistance funds to meet this higher level of need across the region was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

As we move forward, ETR remains committed to supporting resilience, opportunity, and access to

resources for individuals and families across the region.

If you have any questions regarding our ETR programs, please reach out to Jacob Timmons, ETR Division Administrator at 907-276-2700



Purchased & Referred Care (PRC) PRC helps Alaska Native and American Indian people pay for medical services not available at ANMC.

Frequently Asked Questions

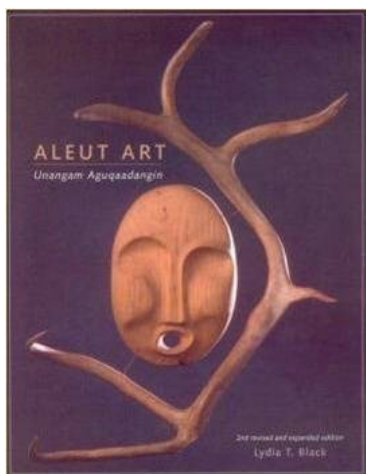
- ⦿ **What is PRC?** PRC helps pay for care not available at APIA or ANMC.
- ⦿ **Do I need prior approval?** Yes. Your provider must send a referral and PRC must approve care before treatment (except emergencies.)
- ⦿ **What about emergencies?** Call PRC within 72 hours (or 30 days if you're 65+) to make sure costs are covered.
- ⦿ **Where can I go for care?** Use IHS or tribal facilities when possible. Private clinics are approved only if no IHS options exist.

Contact PRC at: Phone: 907.729.2470 | Toll-free: 800.478.1636 | prc@anthc.org

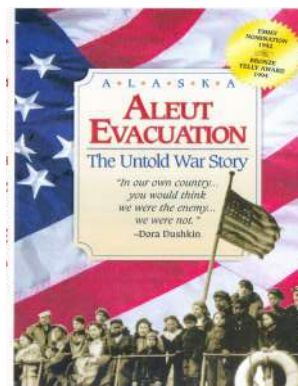
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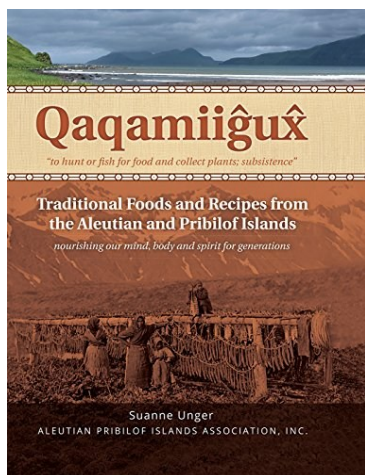
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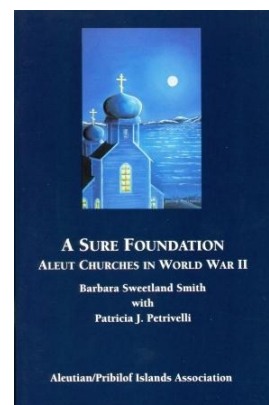


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Connect with us!

General email:

apiai@api.ai.org

Phone: (907)276-2700

Toll-free: (800)478-2742

Fax: (907)279-4351

www.api.ai.org

Unangam Ulaa—
Home of the Aleuts

APIA's Anchorage Office

1131 E. International
Airport Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

www.facebook.com/APIAI

OUR MISSION

- ◆ To promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangan/Unanagas¹ by advocacy, training, technical assistance, and economic enhancement;
- ◆ To assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unanga² community;
- ◆ To promote, strengthen, and ensure the unity of the Unangan/Unanagas; and
- ◆ To strengthen and preserve the Unanga² cultural heritage.

¹Unangan [Eastern dialect], Unanagas [Atka Dialect] - Aleuts, plural form; ²Unanga² - Aleut, singular form

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